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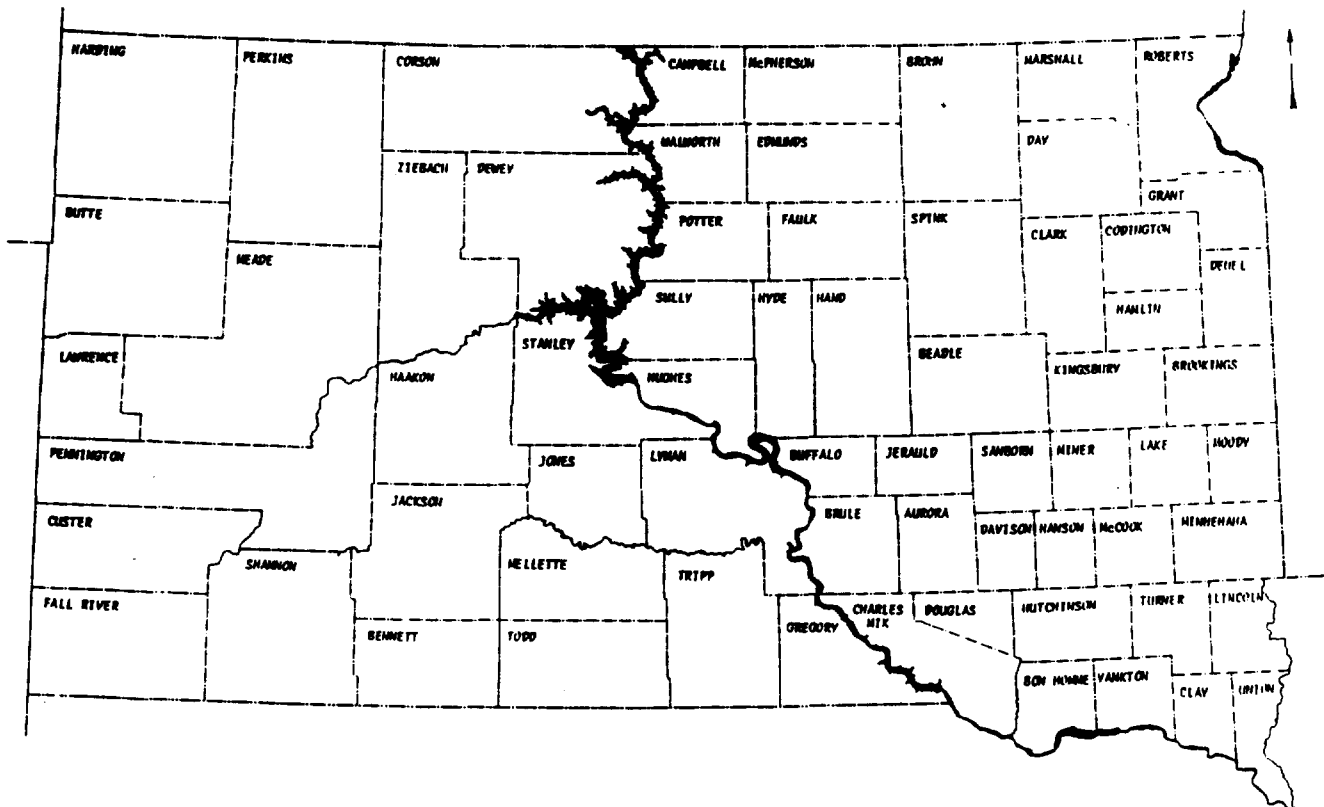
COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

FOR

* REGION 38 *

THE STATE OF

SOUTH DAKOTA



PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO

COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

FOR

* REGION 38 *

THE STATE OF

SOUTH DAKOTA

PREFACE

December 29, 1992

Ms. Donna Searcy, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

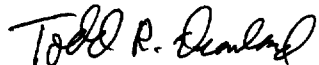
Dear Ms. Searcy:

As chairperson of the Region 38 National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC), I am proud to present for your consideration our committee's Frequency Utilization Plan for the State of South Dakota formulated in accordance with FCC Dockets 87-112 and 87-359.

On March 24, 1992, the Region 38 convenor issued a Public Notice that an initial Region 38 Public Safety Planning meeting would be held on June 9, 1992, at the State Capitol Building (see appendix A). In addition to this notice, I sent an invitation to all the Sheriff's Offices, Police Chiefs, Fire Chiefs, County Judges, City Managers, and the Governor's Office of the State of South Dakota.

This initial regional planning meeting officially established the Region 38 Planning Committee. Todd Dravland was elected Chairperson by the quorum. (see appendix E) Participants in that meeting represented Public Safety Radio Services, Special Emergency Radio Service, and Vendor Community. Please note that vendor participation was encouraged, but they were not allowed to vote. As chairperson of the Region 38, I compiled all the inputs from the Regional Planning Committee Members and developed the final draft.

Sincerely,



Todd R. Dravland
Chairperson, Region 38
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TD/cl

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of South Dakota State Radio Communications, especially Charlene Lower and Jeff Pierce, for their many hours of work preparing this Plan. I would also like to thank the members of Region 38 Planning Committee and the APCO staff for their assistance required to complete this plan.

1.0 SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

In December of 1983, the United States Congress directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to establish a plan to ensure that the communications needs of state and local public safety authorities would be met. By their regular means of initiation, the FCC began the process of developing such a plan. Through their efforts, and the efforts of the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) the plan was begun.

The National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee provided an opportunity for the public safety community and other interested members of the public to participate in an overall spectrum management approach by recommending policy guidelines, technical standards, and procedures to satisfy public safety needs for the foreseeable future. After consideration of NPSPAC's Final Report and comments filed in Docket No. 87-112, a Report and Order was released by the FCC in December 1987, which established a structure for the National Plan that consists of guidelines for the development of regional plans.

The National Plan provides guidelines for the development of regional plans. The particulars of this plan are found in FCC 87-359, which contains the required steps and contents for regional plan development. It is on this document that this plan is developed.

1.2 Purpose

Public safety communications has, for many years, been inadequate throughout the United States. This is as true for South Dakota as it is for any other state. Many, if not all, public safety radio users are constantly bombarded with outside interference, noise, and over crowding. It is with these problems in mind that this plan was developed.

This regional plan was developed with the objective of assuring all levels of public safety/public service agencies that radio communications in the near and distant future will not suffer from the problems of the past. The allocation of frequencies was done in as equitable a way as possible. The goal was to supply a pool of frequencies for each county and a pool for state agency use with adequate reserve allocations for future needs in all areas, and a method to appeal initial allocations based on need.

The National Plan, as developed by NPSPAC, was followed very closely in all considerations for frequency allocation, re-use, turn back, regional interoperability, spectrum requirements and adjacent region operations. This plan should provide the flexibility to accommodate the growth and changes which are bound to occur in public safety and public service communications operations long into the future.

2.0 AUTHORITY

2.1 Regional Planning Committee

The development of the Public-Safety Radio Communications Plan for Region 38, the State of South Dakota, has followed the requirements of the FCC's Report and Order as issued in the matter of General Docket 87-112.

In accordance with the FCC's Report and Order 87-112, the Associated Public-Safety Communications Officers Inc. (APCO) recommended to the Commission the appointment of a "Convenor" for South Dakota, Region 38. The Convenor served as the coordinator for the assembly and formation of the planning committee.

Participants in the formation of the Regional Planning Committee represent interested parties from both the Public Safety and Special Emergency Radio Services. A total of eleven individuals have participated in the development process. The list herein contains the names, organizational affiliations, mailing addresses and phone numbers of all participants in the Regional Planning Committee. (See 6.0)

The committee was selected by attendance at the planning meetings. Each member of the Committee representing an eligible licensee under the Public Safety Radio Services and the Special Emergency Radio Services was entitled to one vote in all Committee matters. Except as may be provided elsewhere in the Plan, the majority of those present at a scheduled meeting constituted a majority for all business. Only the final approval of the plan prior to submission to the FCC required a vote from more than would be in attendance at a regular meeting. In this case the vote was conducted by mail ballot sent to all those who had participated in the planning process. This way, the finished plan was reviewed and accepted by the widest, within reason, group of public safety/public service users.

2.2 Planning Committee Formation

The process of forming the Planning Committee was conducted in the following steps:

1. Personal interviews were held with the representatives of all major state agency radio users concerning radio usage requirements.
2. Presentations concerning the requirements for a regional planning committee were presented and discussed at state organization meetings. At each presentation there was an opportunity for persons to place themselves and/or their agency on the mailing list.
3. Letters of announcement were mailed to each major state agency radio users, those placed on the mailing list, as well as to state organizations composed of local government level public safety/public service users.

4. A public notice was placed in a newspaper with state wide distribution, for the first planning committee meeting. This first meeting was held at the State Capitol Building, a public facility. (See Appendix A).
5. Todd Dravland was elected Chairperson at the initial meeting.
6. Committee membership was left open to any person or agency which may not have been notified or decided to join the committee later.
7. Vendors participation was encouraged , but vendors were not allowed a vote.

2.3 National Interrelationships

The Regional Plan is in conformity with the National Plan. If there is a conflict between the two plans, the National Plan will govern. It is expected that Regional Plans for other areas of the country may differ from this plan due to the broad differences in circumstance, geography, and population density. By officially sanctioning this plan the Federal Communications Commission agrees to its conformity to the National Plan. Nothing in the Plan is to interfere with the proper functions and duties of - the organizations appointed by the FCC for frequency coordination in the Private Land Mobile Radio Services, but rather it provides procedures that are the consensus of the Public Safety Radio Services and Special Emergency Radio Service user agencies in this Region. If there is a perceived conflict then the judgment of the FCC will prevail.

2.4 Federal Interoperability

Interoperability between the Federal, State and Local Governments during both daily and disaster operations will primarily take place on the five common channels identified in the National Plan. Additionally, through the use of S-160 or equivalent agreements, a licensee may permit Federal use of a non-Federal communications system. Such use, on other than the five identified common channels, is to be in full compliance with FCC requirements for government use of non-government frequencies (Title 47CFR, sec 2.103). It is permissible for a non-Federal government licensee to increase channel requirements to account for 2-10 percent increase in mobile units, dependent on the amount of Federal Government Agencies involvement in its area, provided that written documentation from Federal agencies supports at least that number of increased units.

2.5 Regional Review Committee

Upon approval of this Plan by the Federal Communications Commission, a Region Review Committee will be established for the review of applications which do not fall within the stated guidelines provided for in this plan, or for the settlement of disputes concerning this plan and/or its application.

This committee shall consist of the Local APCO Frequency Advisor for this region, a state agency representative, one representative from the Police, Fire, Division of Emergency Management, and EMS services, and a minimum

representation from other eligibles is also welcome. This committee and its composition will be assured interested Public Safety organizations. Membership on this committee will be solicited on an annual basis. Since this committee will probably not have regular business, it will be up to the Local APCO Frequency Advisor to notify the committee of problems, conflicts, or when it becomes apparent that spectrum demands will outpace available spectrum. Each member of the committee shall be furnished a copy of this plan upon their appointment or election to the committee. Final draft of the plan was approved via mail ballot by committee members.

Plan updates shall be accomplished by this committee. All changes or updates to the plan shall be first agreed upon by this committee and then submitted to the FCC for their review and consideration. When approved all changes shall be added to the plan with the appropriate documentation of approval.

This committee shall meet at least once annually to review the implementation of the plan. This review shall consist of examination of any and all license activity. In addition they shall review emerging standards related to 800MHz and trunking and shall establish appropriate technical standards for plan implementation.

3.0 SPECTRUM UTILIZATION

This portion of the Plan provides a basis for proper spectrum utilization. Its purpose is to guide the Local APCO Frequency Advisor and/or the Regional Review Committee in their task of evaluating the implementation of this plan within this Region.

3.1 Region Defined

Region 38 is the State of South Dakota. This region is the result of definition by the Federal Communications Commission as a result of recommendations made in the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee (NPSPAC) plan as submitted and approved and contained in Docket 87-112. For purposes of this plan the State of South Dakota shall be defined as all the lands and waters contained within the boundaries of the State of South Dakota.

3.2 Region Profile (Demographic Information)

The purpose of this section is to provide the basis for the assignment of frequencies, and their re-use. Since the frequency allocation formula used is based on population within a county, it is necessary to provide this information within this plan. Below is the data used in the determination of frequency allocations.

3.2.1 State Of South Dakota Population And Expected Growth Percentage. (See APPENDIX D)

The population of the state is 696,004 broken down 50/50 between rural and urban areas. Population density is approximately 9.1 persons per square mile.

Total population grew 1% from 1980 to 1990. Slow growth is expected to continue.

3.2.2 Geographical Description

There are 66 counties in the state with a total land mass of 76378 square miles. The geography in South Dakota ranges from rolling prairie on the eastern side of the state to the mountainous Black Hills on the western edge of the state. Elevations rising from 962 feet above sea level at Big Stone Lake in the northeast corner of the state westward to Harney Peak in Pennington County at 7242 feet. The largest county is Meade, with a total of 3470 square miles. Water areas of significance, include a number of glacial lakes in the eastern part of the state to the Missouri River and the lakes Oahe, Sharpe, Francis Case, and Lewis and Clark created by the four hydroelectric dams, Oahe, Big Bend, Ft. Randall, and Gavins Point.

As is shown above, the population of the state is 696,004 distributed across the land area contained in the state. This presents some problems in area coverage for radio systems in that the entire land area of any given jurisdiction must be covered. The population per square mile is somewhat sparse which generally indicates that the concentration of radio users for public safety activities is also sparse. All of these items were taken under consideration in the allocation plan.

3.3 Usage Guidelines

All systems operating within the Region having five or more channels will be required to be trunked. Those systems having four or less channels may be conventional or trunked.

The FCC, in its Report and Order states, "Exceptions will be permitted only when a substantial showing is made that alternative technology would be at least as efficient as trunking or that trunking would not meet operational requirements. Exceptions will not be granted routinely, however, and strong evidence showing why trunking is unacceptable must be presented in support of any request for exception."

Systems of four or less channels operating in the conventional mode who do not meet FCC loading standards will be required to share the frequency on a non-exclusive basis.

Public Safety communications at the state level, as it impacts the Region, will be reviewed by the Committee. State-wide public safety agencies will submit their communications plans for impact approval if they utilize communications systems within the Region and those portions of such systems must be compatible with the Regional plan.

The next level of communication coverage will be a county/multiple municipality area. Those systems that are designed to provide area communication coverage must demonstrate their need to require such wide area coverage.

This would apply in a situation such as a city requesting coverage of an entire county. Communication coverage beyond the bounds of a jurisdictional area of concern cannot be tolerated unless it is critical to the protection of life and property. If the 800 MHz trunked radio technology is utilized, the system design must include as many county/multiple municipality government public safety and public service radio users as can be managed technically.

The county/multiple municipality agency(ies), depending upon systems loading and the need for multiple systems within an area, must provide intercommunications between area-wide systems. In a multi-agency environment, a lead agency using the 800 MHz spectrum, which is an agency or organization having primary response obligations in the geographic area, shall be responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Common Channels in this band as mandated by the National Plan. Such implementation must be reviewed and approved by the Local APCO Frequency Advisor, and at his/her discretion, the Regional Review Committee.

Municipal terminology often differs. In order to provide a title for the next level of communications the term municipal is used to define the level below county-wide. Municipal communications for public safety and public services purposes must provide only the communications needed within its boundaries. However, if the total number of radios in service does not reach minimum loading criteria for a trunked system, that entity must consider utilizing the next higher system level if 800 MHz trunked radio is available in the area. As those higher level systems reach capacity, the smaller system communicators in public safety and public service must then consider uniting their communications efforts to formulate one large system or forfeit use of the limited 800 MHz spectrum.

Where smaller conventional 800 MHz needs are requested, those frequencies to

3.4.2 System Coverage Limitations

System coverage shall be limited to the coverage area defined as listed above plus no more than three (3) additional miles in all directions extending from said boundaries of definition. This limitation shall assure maximum frequency reuse. The only exception to this rule shall be those applicants wishing to offer service or system use to areas outside of their jurisdictional boundaries. In these situations the applicant shall provide a proposal of said service to the Local APCO Frequency Advisor, who may request Regional Review Committee consideration, for approval.

Systems not located within the geographical center of the jurisdiction(s) for which they cover shall utilize either directional antennas or antenna/tower relationship techniques to achieve the coverage required by this plan.

3.4.3 Determination Of Coverage

The Modified Egli Method¹ shall be used to estimate the area of coverage. This method allows calculations based on system parameters and corresponds closely to other methods of estimating the 40 dBμ signal level contours, including the Okamura/Hata method used for Region 38 frequency assignments. An irregular terrain correction factor has been added to the Egli Method to accommodate the terrain irregularities of Region 38.

The formula for estimating range in miles² is:

$$R = R_{SE} e^{-0.077 \Delta h / R_{SE}}$$

where R_{SE} is the smooth earth estimate,

$$R_{SE} = 10^x$$

and

$$x = \frac{1}{40}(P_T + G_T + G_R - L_{TT} - L_{RT} - L_P - L_N - 117 - S + 20 \log H_T H_R - 20 \log f)$$

P_T	= Power of base transmitter, dBW
G_T	= Gain of base transmitter antenna, dB
G_R	= Gain of mobile transmitter antenna, dB
L_{TT}	= Loss of base transmission line, duplexer, etc., dB
L_{RT}	= Loss of mobile system, dB
L_P	= Reliability degradation loss ³ , dB
L_N	= Noise degradation, dB (assumed 0 dB at 850 MHz for Region 38)
S	= Sensitivity of mobile receiver, EIA SINAD, dBW
H_T	= Base station antenna height above average terrain, ft
H_R	= Mobile antenna height, ft
f	= Base station transmit frequency, MHz
Δh	= Terrain irregularity, ft
h_e	= Effective antenna height, ft (assume H_T)

Alternately, estimated coverage may be shown by recognized terrain-based propagation models, plotted on the maps. The Regional Review Committee may require additional showing of the validity of any coverage estimation.

¹ Singer, E. "Land Mobile Radio Systems", 1989.

² To determine Δh one uses the procedure described in NTIA Report 82-100, "A Guide to the Use of the ITS Irregular Terrain Model in the Area Prediction Mode", p. 21, calculating the median elevation variation for a set of regular or random paths from the transmitter.

³ For a 90% probability of communication, a reliability degradation loss of 19 dB may be used. If Δh and h_e are unknown, add 6 dB to L_P and use the smooth earth estimate.

3.4.4 Annexations And Other Expansions

It is well known that as cities grow, annexations occur. When an expansion of the present city limits of any city currently using an 800 megahertz system within the spectrum as herein specified occurs, it is understood that the existing system may have to be expanded and its range increased. This is a modification and may be permitted. The increased range of the system will have to be determined at the time of modification to assure non-interference with any other existing system. Where interference is likely, the use of alternate methods of expansion, such as satellite systems, may be necessary.

Should the annexation or expansion of a city effectively take in all or most of a county, the allocation for that county may be given to the city if required by said city and not in use or planned to be used by the county. Where more spectrum is not available from the initial allocation, the rules for expansion of initial allocation, as contained in this plan, shall apply.

3.4.5 Coverage Area Description

All applicants shall provide with their applications a map showing the jurisdictional boundaries to be covered by the system, and the calculated system coverage. This map shall display the location of the system transmitter(s), including control stations. It is recommended that a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Quad topographical map be used for this purpose. If not available, a high quality locally produced map or a highway map may be substituted. Regardless of the type map used, the name of the applicant and the scale of the map shall be displayed on the map.

An estimated coverage area of each fixed transmitter shall be shown on the maps. The estimated range shall be calculated according to Section 3.4.3 above.

3.4.6 Reassignment of Frequencies

All agencies participating in the use of the new 800 MHz spectrum shall prepare and submit a plan for the abandonment of their currently licensed frequencies in the lower bands. These released frequencies shall be available for reassignment to those agencies not migrating to 800 MHz at this time.

These released frequencies shall be returned to the radio service from which it was assigned. These frequencies shall then be available for reassignment by the assignment/coordination criteria in effect for that particular service by the regular FCC authorized coordinator for that service.

Frequencies which are to be abandoned by an agency shall not be handed down to another agency within the respective jurisdiction. Though this may seem a convenient method to re-use existing radio equipment, the reassignment must be handled through the normal process. It is recommended that any jurisdiction wishing to "hand down" frequencies to another agency submit the proper coordination and application forms with the document of release. This will put the applicant in a better posture for reassignment of the frequency

in question. It should be noted that even though this procedure is followed, there is no guarantee that a particular frequency will be assigned to the returning jurisdiction.

The time frame allowed for phasing into 800 MHz and out of the lower currently licensed bands will be considered on a case by case basis by the review committee. Generally, one year will be considered acceptable in most cases, with two years as a maximum. Any agency requiring more than two years shall provide documents stating the reasons for the delay, and give the estimated time of completion.

3.4.7 Unused Spectrum

Due to the fact that all of the frequency spectrum is not needed at this time, the excess channel pairs will be returned to a reserve pool. These channels may be used for conflict with adjacent Region allocations or may simply remain within this Region until needed. This does not imply that these frequencies are unavailable, only that before they can be utilized within the Region they must be coordinated via the regular APCO coordination process and within the guidelines set forth in this plan. Where possible, the channels designated for a jurisdiction in this plan shall be used.

3.4.8 Adjacent Region Coordinations

Coordination with adjacent regions shall be an on-going process until all region plans have been finalized. The adjacent regions with which coordination has been conducted are: Montana (Region 25); Wyoming (Region 46); Nebraska (Region 26); Iowa (Region 15); Minnesota (Region 22); and North Dakota (Region 32). (APPENDIX B) As the use of the five National channels is not considered a day-to-day function, the "hard" coordination for the use of these channels is not considered to be necessary or advisable. The use of these channels will always be on a non-interference basis, with on-the-air coordination at the time of use when required. Any user found to be operating in any manner other than this shall be considered to be operating improperly and subject to the existing Federal Communications Commission rules for willful interference with the communications of other users.

3.5 Initial Spectrum Allocation

The criteria for initial allocation will be based on population. Four channels will be assigned per county with up to 20,000 in population. For each 20,000 in additional population per county, another channel is assigned.

3.5.1 Frequency Sorting Methodology

The initial spectrum allocation for the Region was determined by a computerized frequency sorting process performed by APCO/CET. The purpose of the computer program which assigns frequencies to specific eligibles and to pools for future assignments is two-fold:

- A) The assignments must result in a high degree of spectrum efficiency, and
- B) The assignments must result in a low probability of co-channel and adjacent channel interference.

Since the desired output is a geographic sorting of frequencies, a method of defining geography must be part of the input. A list of the number of channels to be assigned in each geographic area is also required, along with the name of the eligible or pool.

Acceptable interference probabilities are determined for the Region. Frequency assignments are then made using a computer program which satisfies the goals of spectrum efficiency and interference protection. The following narrative describes the factors and process used by the computer program.

3.5.2 Geographic Area

For the purpose of this frequency sort, a geographic area is defined as one or more circles of equal radius. To the degree practical, the circle(s) should include the entire area of the eligible's geopolitical boundary, but not exceed the boundary by more than three (3) miles. Thus, the procedure is to gather maps of sufficient detail, outline the areas to be defined, determine the coordinates and radius of the circles which define each area, and tabulate the data.

3.5.3 Define The Environment

The environment of each system is defined according to the Okumura/Hata method of classifications. See appendix C.

3.5.4 Blocked Channels

In the Region there are five mutual aid channels which must be blocked out to prevent the computer from making assignments on these channels. (Since the mutual aid channels are spaced at 0.5 MHz intervals, other Region-wide systems are spaced at 0.5 MHz and placed adjacent to the mutual aid channels. This procedure reduces the impact of blocked adjacent channels by virtue of the fact that the channel plan already has protection spacing on each side of the mutual aid channels.)

These Region-wide blocked channels are identified by FCC channel number, tabulated and they become input to the computer program.

3.5.5 Transmitter Combining

The computer program is designed to provide a minimum frequency separation between any two channels assigned to the same eligible at the same site. This separation is provided in order to enable more efficient combining of multiple transmitters to a single antenna. These separated blocks of frequencies also have a maximum size. That is, if the eligible has more frequencies than the maximum size of the combining block, then a second compatible block is created, and so on. Each of these parameters is adjustable in the program on a global basis. The default parameters chosen are 0.25 MHz minimum spacing and five channel blocks.

3.5.6 Special Considerations

There are licensees in the 806-821/852-866 MHz spectrum who plan to expand existing systems into the 821-824/866-869 MHz bands. Some of the existing radio units are unable to operate on 12.5 KHz separated carrier frequencies. The result is that these radios can only operate on "even" FCC numbered channels in the 821-824/866-869 MHz band. The computer program is able to take this into account when making assignments.

3.5.7 Protection Ratios

There are two interference protection ratios built into the computer program. One is for the co-channel case, the other is for the adjacent channel case. The ratios provide 35 dB Desired/Undesired signal ratio for co-channel assignments, and 15 dB Desired/Undesired ratio for the adjacent channel case. These ratios provide an acceptable probability of interference for Public Safety Services.

4.0 COMMUNICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Common Channel Implementation

The implementation of the International Common Channels must follow the guidelines as set forth by the Federal Communications Commission by the approval of the National Plan. These five common channels are accessible by all levels of government and shall be used in accordance with the provisions of the National Plan. All mobile and portable equipment must be equipped to operate in the "talkaround mode" when required on the International Channels.

The International calling channel (821/866.0125 MHz) shall be implemented as a full mobile relay. Wide area coverage transmitters will be installed where applicable within a system. Large system users (5 channels or more) of 800 MHz shall be required to monitor this channel at all times. The area of coverage for this channel shall be equal to the area covered by the licensed system. This may or may not require the use of satellite receivers within the area to meet this requirement.

The four International Tactical (ITAC) Channels will be assigned State-wide, for use as needed by all eligible licensees. These channels are to be used in accordance with the National Plan and in compliance with the regulations as set forth by the Federal Communications Commission. These channels require no special licensing, only that the users be eligible for licensing on the other Public Safety 800 MHz channels as specified in section 90.616 (a) of the FCC Rules and Regulations.

4.1.1 Areas of Operation

The common channels shall be available for use throughout the Region. No specific assignments were deemed necessary within the Region.

4.1.2 Operation on The Common Channels

Normally, the five interoperable channels are to be used only for activities requiring inter-communications between agencies not sharing any other compatible communications system. Interoperable channels are not to be used by any level agency for routine, daily operations. In major emergency situations, one or more ITAC channels may be assigned by the primary Public Safety Agency within that area of operation.

The primary Public Safety agency in each county, if not defined elsewhere in the plan, shall be the County Sheriff's Department or Public Safety Department or the lead agency, which may be any agency licensed to operate in this spectrum, or "on-scene" commander. The primary Public Safety agency shall be the city level Public Safety Department in situations which occur within the corporate limits of said city. These primary agencies will assign one or more of the ITAC channels for use according to need during each special situation requiring the use of these channels.

Participants in the interoperable channels include Federal, State, and Local Disaster Management agencies. Police, Fire, and providers of Basic and Advanced Life support services will be the primary using agencies. If radio channels are available, other services provided in the Public Safety Radio Services and the Special Emergency Radio Services may also participate to the extent required to insure the safety of the public. These agencies include the Highway Department, Motor Vehicle Comptroller, Forestry, Wildlife and other special service agencies not normally involved in day-to-day public safety operations.

4.1.3 Operation Procedures

On all Common Channels, plain English will be used at all times, and the use of unfamiliar terms, phrases, or codes will not be allowed.

4.1.3(I) International Calling Channel (ICALL):

The ICALL channel shall be used to establish contact with other users in a particular Region that can render assistance at an incident. This channel shall not be utilized as an ongoing working channel. Once contact has been established between agencies, an agreed upon ITAC or mutual aid channel shall be used for continued communications.

4.1.3(II) International Tactical Channels (ITAC-1 - ITAC-4):

These frequencies are reserved for use by those agencies involved in inter-agency communications. Incidents requiring multi-agency participation will utilize these frequencies as directed by the control agency assuming responsibility for an incident or area of concern. These frequencies may be subdivided according to function in an incident or by geographical location in response to an incident. It is recommended that the following assignments for ITAC-1 through ITAC-4 be used when possible.

ITAC-1..... Law Enforcement
ITAC-2.....Fire Services
ITAC-3.....Emergency Medical Services
ITAC-4.....Command and Control

4.1.4 Coded Squelch

All equipment capable of operating on the five (5) common channels shall be equipped with the National Common Tone Squelch of 156.7 Hz. Mobile relays on these channels, if authorized, may use additional tone or digital squelch codes for the purpose of selecting individual mobile relay stations, provided the National Common Tone Squelch Code is used on the output. If such an arrangement is utilized, provision must also be made for certain centralized, high level sites to be activated by the 156.7 tone to ensure emergency access by transient units.

4.2 Network Operating Methods

Communications systems on ITAC-1 thru ITAC-4 will be implemented by agencies who volunteer on a distributed coordinated basis. Every primary geographic section of the Region is intended to be covered by at least one of the ITAC channels. In many areas the common channels will be utilized on a mobile to mobile talk-around basis. Mobile relays on ITAC-1 thru ITAC-4 will be on a limited coverage design to permit reuse of the channel several times within the Region and in adjacent regions. Since Region 38 will probably not have a large number of stationary ITAC Channel stations, the implementation of mobile relay or repeaters is strongly encouraged. This will fill an "on-scene" requirement for most multi-agency response situations. Adjacent region coordination will be via existing mutual aid coordination procedures with the requesting region establishing the tactical frequency assignment.

4.3 Requirements For Trunking

All systems operating in the Region having five or more channels will be



Depending on systems loading and the need for multiple systems within an area, operators of wide area systems (including, but not limited to, designated "Monitoring Agencies") must provide for coordination between area-wide systems and "Monitoring Agencies". Single municipalities or agencies must restrict design and implementation of their systems(s) to provide only the communications needed within its geopolitical boundaries. The use of trunked systems is encouraged. However, if the total number of radios in service does not reach minimum loading criteria for a trunked system, that user must consider utilizing the next higher system level if 800 MHz trunked radio is available in the area. As systems reach capacity, the smaller system users must consider consolidating their communications systems to formulate one large trunked system.

A requesting applicant for radio communications in the 800 MHz public safety services in the Region will be required to conform to the FCC loading criteria for its proposed system. The provisions of this regional plan must be used as a guide for establishing any new systems. Strict adherence for limiting the area of coverage to the boundaries of the applicant agency's jurisdiction must be observed. Overlap or extended coverage must be minimized, even where systems utilizing 800 MHz trunked radio systems are proposing to intermix systems for cooperative and/or mutual aid purposes.

Antenna heights are to be limited to provide only the necessary coverage for a system. When antenna locations are restricted to only the "high-ground", transmitter outputs and special antenna patterns must be employed to produce only the necessary coverage with the proper amount of ERP. All necessary precautions are to be taken to gain maximum reuse of the limited 800 MHz spectrum.

4.4 Channel Loading Requirements

An agency/jurisdiction requesting a single frequency to replace a frequency currently in use that will be turned back for reassignment will not be required to meet loading requirements in order to obtain the new frequency. However, if the single frequency is not loaded to more than 50 units within three years after the license is granted, the frequency will be available for assignment to other agencies on a shared basis in the event that other frequencies meeting the criteria for assignment are exhausted. Shared use of a frequency is not interference free. Users of single frequency systems may be required to provide the Regional Review Committee "confirmation of loading" for mobiles and portables as a method of validating system loading. This exception shall apply to agencies having only one system and a single frequency. Agencies/jurisdictions requesting multiple frequencies or employing trunking technology shall comply with the loading standards as outlined below or provide a "Traffic Loading Study" that meets the criteria as outlined below.

4.4.1 Loading Tables

<u>EMERGENCY</u>		<u>NON-EMERGENCY</u>	
CHANNELS	UNITS/CHANNEL	CHANNELS	UNITS/CHANNEL
1 - 5	70	1 - 5	80
6 - 10	75	6 - 10	90
11 - 15	80	11 - 15	105
16 - 20	85	16 - 20	120

Agencies requesting additional frequencies must show loading of 100 percent or greater on their existing system. Should a demand for frequencies exist after assignable frequencies become exhausted, any system having frequencies assigned under this plan four or more years previously and not loaded to at least 70 percent will lose operating authority on a sufficient number of frequencies to bring the system into compliance with the 70 percent loading standard. Frequencies lost in this manner will be reallocated to other agencies to help satisfy the demand for additional frequencies.

4.4.2 Traffic Loading Study

Justification for adding frequencies, or retaining existing frequencies, can be provided by a traffic loading study in lieu of loading by number of transmitters per channel. It will be the responsibility of the requesting agency to provide a verifiable study showing sufficient airtime usage to merit additional frequencies. A showing of airtime usage, excluding telephone interconnect air time, during the peak busy hour greater than 70 percent per channel on three consecutive days will be required to satisfy loading criteria.

4.4.3 Slow Growth

Any applicant desiring to implement an 800 trunked system under a slow growth plan must state such at the time of application. The licensee will have three years to implement the system. Should system implementation not begin within a two-year period or if channel loading is not attained within three years after the license is granted, the applicant may lose the frequency or be required to share the frequency(ies). The licensee must file a report of progress and loading status with the FCC, APCO, and the Region 38 Review Committee. Should a licensee fail to meet the implementation or loading requirements as set forth above, upon discovery by the designated Local APCO Frequency Advisor, and upon written notice to the licensee, any spectrum available from either lack of implementation or loading may be returned to the reserve pool or shared with other users.

Any spectrum returned to the reserve pool will be available for re-assignment ninety calendar days after the date of the written notice by the Local APCO Frequency Advisor of intention to do so. During this ninety-day period the licensee may appeal this action to the designated Local APCO Frequency Advisor and/or request a ruling from the Regional Review Committee. If no

such appeal is received from the licensee, the spectrum in question will be returned to the reserved pool.

When channel contention is found to exist in an area where a slow growth plan is in effect, the designated Local APCO Frequency Advisor will notify the licensee of said contention and request a current slow growth plan which must contain sufficient showing that the plan is reasonably valid. After review of the slow growth plan, the Local APCO Frequency Advisor will make recommendations to remedy the frequency contention problem using this Public Safety Radio Communications Plan as a guide.

Any decision made by the local APCO Frequency Advisor may be appealed to the Regional Review Committee. A reasonable effort shall be made by the Committee to establish a workable solution to the contention problem. More information on appeals can be found in the "Appeal Process" section of this plan.

4.5 Use of Long Range Communications

During incidents of major proportions, where Public Safety requirements might include the need for long-range communications in and out of a disaster area, alternate radio communications plans are to be addressed by Primary Public Safety agencies within this sub-region. These agencies should integrate the appropriate interface to the long distance communications providers. Such long distance radio communications might be amateur radio operations, satellite communications and/or long range emergency preparedness communications systems, any of or all of which should be incorporated as part of the communications plans of those lead agencies. They then could provide the means to communicate outside the area for themselves and the smaller agencies who might need assistance. Instances as addressed in the National Public Safety Planning Advisory Committee's Plan, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, widespread forest fires, or nuclear reactor problems could be a cause for such long-range communications needs.

4.6 Expansion of Existing Systems

Radio equipment that is currently type accepted and in service on public safety systems in the 806/866 MHz band may continue to operate on the 821-824/866-869 MHz channels, provided the deviation is reduced to +/- 4.0 Khz.

5.0 IMPLEMENTATION AND PROCEDURES

5.1 Notification.

Several methods of notification were used to invite interested parties to participate in the development of this plan. Initially, personal contact was made by the "convenor" to all of the major State agency communications users in the State of South Dakota. An announcement was made at the statewide meeting of LECC, Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee. The Division of Emergency Management was used to get notice to interested parties at the county level and letters were sent to all major State agencies users.

Supplemental to the personal contact, an advertisement was placed in two State-wide newspapers several weeks prior to the initial meeting. Several announcements were printed on the South Dakota Crime Information Teletype network. All APCO Chapter members and a large number of other interested parties who had requested notification were sent letters of invitation. SEE APPENDIX A

During the initial meeting, names, addresses and telephone numbers of those individuals present who wished to either participate in the planning process, or who wanted to be kept informed on the progress of the planning effort were taken. These individuals or agencies were sent all announcements for meetings and bulletins of progress.

When the work on the plan was completed, a final planning committee meeting was called. This meeting was held and each member of the planning committee was presented with a draft copy of the plan for study. A copy of the final draft was mailed to each member of the committee not present at the meeting. Each plan contained a ballot for voting on the acceptance of the plan.

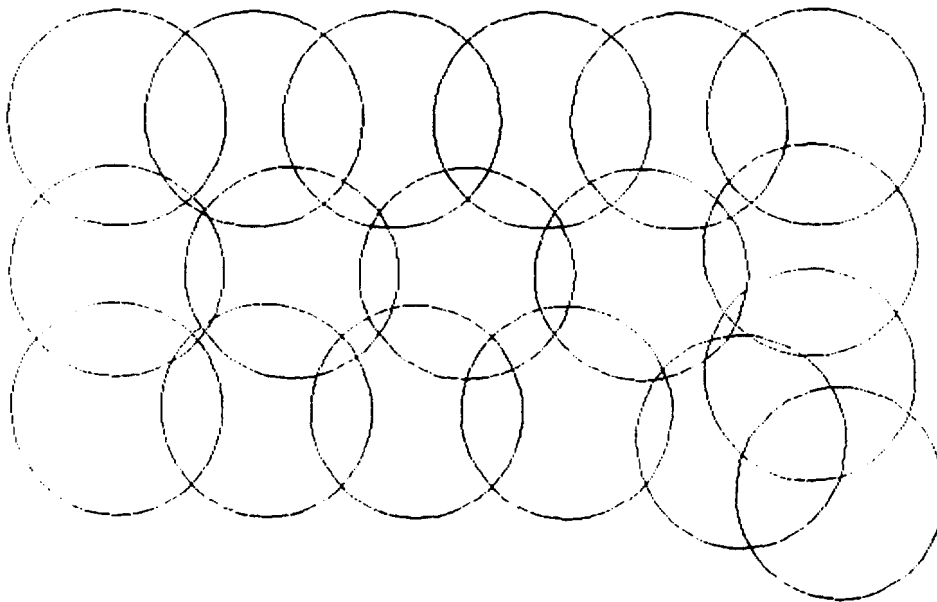
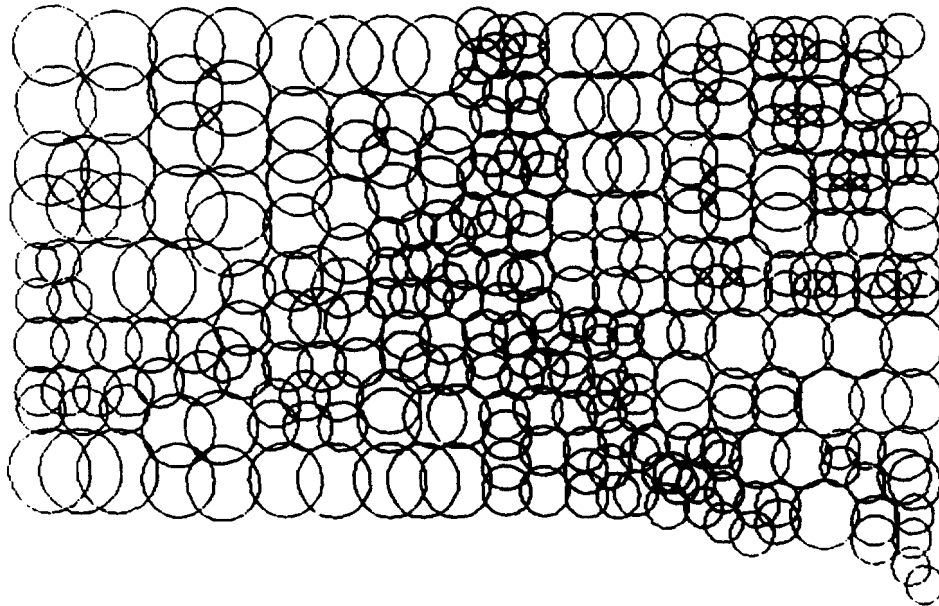
5.2 Frequency Allocation Process

The method used for "packing" Region 38 was the APCO/CET. computerized method. The approximate geographical location for the center of each county, in latitude and longitude, were provided along with the environmental type of the county and the approximate radius to cover the county lines. Along with this information, a list of frequencies to block along the adjacent region's border was included. The actual assignment of frequencies is for four (4) channel-pairs per county.

This allocation is the minimum and only applies to counties with a population of 20,000 or less. One additional channel is allocated for each additional 20,000 of population.

5.3 Frequency Allocation Map

Below is the data, or packing plan generated by APCO/CET via the computerized packing program. The first section is county by county information provided, followed by the packing plan. The plan took adjacent regions into consideration, in addition, letters of concurrence were sent. (APPENDIX C)



SOUTH DAKOTA

